

To whom it may concern:

My name is Daniel D. Dashman. I am a member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local No. One. We are the Broadway stagehands. I also have earned a law degree from Yeshiva University and am currently an LLM candidate at NYU Law in Labor and Employment. I am married with three children and have been employed in the entertainment industry since my graduation from Union College in 1972.

Local No. One's jurisdiction extends to Staten Island, Manhattan, Bronx, Westchester and Putnam in New York State. The television networks are part of our jurisdiction and there are members of my local working for ABC, NBC, CBS, Fox, WB, WNET and the local stations of each.

As a stagehand I speak with many people who travel this country with touring shows, concerts and other acts. The prevalent complaint from the many hundreds of people I have spoken to is the oppressive control being exercised by a very few players. I have been told by roadies and performers that to get air play on a ClearChannel radio station, the performer must perform in a ClearChannel controlled arena, must advertise with ClearChannel controlled billboards, use ClearChannel facilities wherever they exist. Our public air ways are held in trust by the broadcasters. That they are being used to extort personal corporate aggrandizement at the risk of losing one's career is a misuse and abuse of that public trust.

The FCC should redefine "local" to its pre-1994 meaning. The number of stations to be owned by any one entity should be returned to the pre-1994 rule which severely limited ownership in comparison to the current monopolies. The term "local" should refer to ownership, control, and administration. Our air ways need to be free, just as our press is free. The airways serve the purpose the press did in the time of our founders and the protection of ready free access to the air ways is just as crucial to a free society as free access to the printing press.

Thank you for looking into this issue. There is clearly a right for all viewpoints to be able to reach our air ways. Unlike the press, where anyone can print a bulletin on their computer and email it or post it on line or print it out for mass consumption, the airways are limited to a few frequency bands. In some cities like New York, the broadcasters are using such a powerful and uncontrolled signal that, as an example, when crossing 6th avenue while listening to 93.9 WNYC, WPLJ 95.7 drowns out the signal. Controls on signal strength and accuracy, monitoring of the same, and decentralized ownership of the purveyors of content are essential to our continuing freedom.

Sincerely, Daniel D. Dashman